

## Public Notice – Environmental Cleanup Plan

**PURPOSE OF NOTICE:** The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Department of Conservation and Recreation announce a public meeting to develop a cleanup plan for the Knox Creek and Pawpaw Creek watersheds in Southwest Virginia. The agencies invite public participation and comments for the purpose of reducing pollutants to Knox and Pawpaw Creeks.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** November 28 to December 30, 2005

**PUBLIC MEETING:** Hurley Elementary and Middle School in Hurley, Virginia, on November 28, 2005 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**MEETING DESCRIPTION:** This is the first public meeting on development of a watershed cleanup plan. The cleanup plan is being developed concurrently with the Total Maximum Daily Load Study to improve water quality.

**DESCRIPTION OF CLEANUP PLAN:** DEQ is currently developing a total maximum daily load study, or a TMDL, for Knox Creek and Pawpaw Creek, contaminated streams in Buchanan County Virginia. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a stream can contain and still meet water quality standards. The stream has bacteria contamination that threatens human health and other contaminants that have harmed the aquatic life in the stream. To restore water quality, contamination levels need to be reduced to the recommended TMDL amounts. The cleanup plan will define ways to reduce contamination.

The Knox Creek “impaired” stream segment includes the entire stream length in Virginia, from its headwaters to the Kentucky State Line, approximately 16.9 miles long. Knox Creek is impaired for failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms and failure to meet the *Recreational Use* because of fecal coliform bacteria violations.

Pawpaw Creek is impaired from the Kentucky State Line to its confluence with Knox Creek, about 4.5 miles of stream reach. This stream is impaired due to failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms only.

**HOW TO COMMENT:** DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting

announced in this notice. The TMDL report is scheduled for completion in February 2006 and will then be available on the DEQ web site at [www.deq.virginia.gov](http://www.deq.virginia.gov). Additionally, information on implementation plans and how they are developed is available at the DEQ website.

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